

Amendments to the Abstract

Please ADD the following abstract to the application. The Abstract is provided on a separate sheet that accompanies this Preliminary Amendment.

--ABSTRACT

An apparatus for controlling the flow of fluid into a borehole through a conduit has a decelerating means adapted to be positioned within the conduit. The fluid could typically comprise drilling mud and/or cement, and in some embodiments, some of the cement can exit through apertures in a shroud of the apparatus to cement the decelerating means inside the conduit. --